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Gov. Rell; Rep. Bacchiochi: Funding to Be Approved for Dam Repairs in Somers, Union

Governor M. Jodi Rell and state Representative Penny Bacchiochi announced today that $400,000 for emergency repairs to the Somersville Pond Dam in Somers is expected to be approved when the State Bond Commission meets Friday, December 9th.

Approval also is expected for funding for repairs to the Sessions Meadows Dam ($30,000), and the Griggs Pond Dam ($20,000), both in Union.

The Bond Commission also is expected to approve funding for two other dam repair projects, the Northfield Pond Dam in Litchfield, $10,000; and the Woodcock Dam in Ridgefield, $5,000.

Governor Rell said, "The Somersville Pond Dam suffered extensive damage during the heavy rains of October. Our experts at the state Department of Environmental Protection say it is in need of repair – and that we need to get that work started right now. I am proposing that we move forward to do that work. Maintaining dams owned by the state of Connecticut is a serious responsibility that demands our immediate attention."

"The scenic and historic pond created by the Somersville Pond Dam on the Scantic River off Route 190 is an important part of the area's natural beauty and charm," said Representative Bacchiochi, R-52nd District. "The pond also provides recreational opportunities for many residents who fish and boat there. During the recent rainstorms, storm water ran over the embankment and parts of the dam were washed away. This grant will enable the dam to be restored in a timely manner and ensure the pond remains a part of the Somers landscape for years to come."

Governor Rell also noted that the bond item also includes $75,000 in funding for the Department of Environmental Protection to undertake an analysis of the condition of all 240 state-owned dams. This review will lead to the development of a comprehensive assessment of repairs and maintenance required to best protect public safety.